



# BULLETIN

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(GAYATRI VIDYA PARISHAD)

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## THE GLOBAL POWERSHIFT

The focus is on China. The last twenty five years have witnessed the emergence of China as a global power with growing influence in many areas. In 1978, before China embarked upon reforms, her share in the world economy was less than one percent with a total foreign trade worth \$ 20.6 billion. Today China has a share of 7% of world's economy. Chinese goods are flooding the markets everywhere and European Union comprising some of the most advanced nations, is nervous about the Chinese "invasion" of European markets. China has more than 1 billion mobile-phone subscribers and over a 100 million people have access to Internet. In both software and hardware the Chinese are overtaking every nation with astonishing efficiency and success.

Frederick the Great of Prussia was said to have proclaimed that his population was his strength. Mao Tse Tung spoke on similar lines and even warned the western powers during the Vietnam war that China could send another lakh of soldiers to defend Vietnam if one lakh were killed. Deng Xiaoping converted the world's largest population into the most enterprising community committed to transform China from poverty to prosperity through hard work and effective application of modern technology for the upliftment of millions of poor people.

A leading British journal has, in a recent article, written that "The world's largest autocracy (China) and its largest democracy (India) have more in common than one might think". India, according to the journal, is displaying dynamism "that has never been there before" though "political timidity" is preventing both China and India from growing faster than at the present rate. India's problems stem from "lousy infrastructure, bumbling and burdensome regulation and restrictive northern states". Advanced countries are understandably 'concerned' about the rise of the two Asian giants and increasing cooperation between them. That China's imports from India have in the recent years gone up by 80% is an indication of growing mutual cooperation between the two great neighbours.

The need of the hour is to gird up for a turning point in India's history that is at our doorstep. The last twenty

years have witnessed major breakthroughs in India's foreign policy thanks to the vision and bold initiatives of all Prime Ministers beginning with Rajiv Gandhi to the present incumbent Dr. Manmohan Singh. In spite of the uncertainty and instability of coalition politics and persistent acts of terrorism causing severe loss of life and property our leaders have displayed commendable dynamism in improving relations with neighbours and the big powers. The impossible has become possible in some instances, like improving relations with Pakistan and continuing the dialogue process. It will take longer time and greater effort, perhaps, to pull the millions of our countrymen from the clutches of poverty, to eliminate corruption in public life and prevent caste and communal conflicts. A challenge indeed for our leaders and the system of governance we have chosen!.

The United States has every reason to justify its claim as the world's number one power, perhaps the sole superpower. A Harvard scholar has in a recent publication described America as the mightiest state since Rome enjoying "a position of power that is historically unprecedented". Another scholar is less modest when he writes that "we are the greatest and most virtuous power in history". Writing on Rome Lord Acton said that ancient Rome was destroyed not by any external power, because it had no enemy it could not defeat, but by its own internal weaknesses.

History tells us about the number of great powers that went into oblivion. A famous historian dismissed five hundred years of dominance of a great power as a 'wink in the eye of history'. Dominance is never absolute or permanent. The time seems to have arrived for two great civilizations to become global role players. India and China have a chance to prove that true greatness lies not in waging wars and killing people but in eliminating poverty and in promoting peace and goodwill among all nations. That was Nehru's dream -- articulated at Haripura in 1938, proclaimed in 1947 and concretized in the form of Panch Sheel in 1954. Is the 21st Century unfolding the fulfilment of the dream of India's first Prime Minister?

-The Editor

The emergence of China and India as free and sovereign countries has changed the face of this ancient continent." - JAWAHARLAL NEHRU



# Gracious Words



P. M. NAIR

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*Surjit Singh Barnala*  
GOVERNOR

No. 15-Secy/2005

18 October 2005

Thank you very much for sending the book "Footprints of Divinity". You deserve congratulations for bringing out such a publication. The President sends his greetings and best wishes.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

*(P.M. NAIR)*

I have received your publication on Gan Jayanthi and thank you for the same. I am pleased to go through the book as I am basically Gandhian.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Surjit Singh Barnala*  
(Surjit Singh Barnala)

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Gopalakrishna Gandhi  
GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL

RAJ BHAVAN  
KOLKATA 700 062

Dr. PREMA NANDAKUMAR  
Srirangam

9.11.2005

Thank you for sending me a copy of your publication released on Gandhi Jayanti. I like its contents and must compliment you on the initiative. The value of the publication would have been greatly enhanced if each quotation from Gandhiji had contained details of when and where the statement was made. But this is only by the way.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Gopalakrishna Gandhi*  
Gopalakrishna Gandhi

"Though it is an oft-repeated gag that journalism embalmed within the covers of a book is unreadable, CPS's Decennial Volume is a charming exception. There is a beautiful mix of the serious and the humorous. Your articles and editorials amaze me"

*Prema Nandakumar*

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We acknowledge with gratitude the kind letters and good wishes sent by H.E. The President of India, H.E. Governor of Tamilnadu, H.E. Governor of West Bengal, Dr. Mrs. Prema Nandakumar and others on receiving our recent publications.



## Rediscovering India through JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

- A. Prasanna Kumar

Jawaharlal Nehru "appears an even taller figure today than during his lifetime," wrote Inder Malhotra, a doyen of Indian journalists and writers, reviewing the biography of Nehru by Sarvepalli Gopal in the preface to *Jawaharlal Nehru - A Biography*, Oxford). While his stature as emancipator and builder does not diminish the image of the other, non-political, Nehru grows more attractive. In a way Nehru the man was bigger than the statesman and Prime Minister. From John Shashi Tharoor writers and biographers have written about Jawaharlal Nehru, his ideas, work, achievements and from different angles. There is always something new and as Gopal put it everyone has his own or her own way to present on one of the greatest leaders of our times.

This brilliant biography published two years ago Shashi Tharoor introduces his work in words that remind one of John Shashi's description of Nehru decades ago. Writes Tharoor: "The first seventeen years of India's independence the world hid a hidden Jawaharlal Nehru — a moody, idealist who felt an almost mystical empathy with the toiling masses; an aristocrat, accustomed to privilege, who harbored socialist convictions; an Anglicized product of Cambridge who has spent over ten years in British India as a diagnostic radical who became an unlikely protégé of Mahatma Gandhi — was India." As Shashi Tharoor writes to most westerners India without was inconceivable. Why works such as *After Nehru Who?* and *After Nehru* come out.

Nehru called himself a great paradox. Nehru was no paradox. He had high respect for tradition though he was modern in outlook and upbringing. He was a master of English language who respected Sanskrit. He was an atheist who did not believe in ritual. But he did not debunk saints and seers. He was both a writer and maker of ideas. Marx and socialist thought had a deep impact on him. A democrat at heart he abhorred violence. His interests were amazingly diverse and he called himself 'a man of many things.' He disliked flattery and tried to keep his distance from sycophants. That he wrote in the 30s an article that created a storm in political circles over his harsh comments on the then Congress leadership bore testimony to the objectivity of his writing. Nehru was aware of

his failures. S. Gopal listed failure to implement land reforms, check corruption and population growth as among the major shortcomings of Nehru's policies. In his masterly review of Gopal's biography Inder Malhotra quotes the biographer's justification of Nehru's policy vis a vis honesty in public life. Nehru once wrote to UP Chief Minister Sampurnanand thus: "One can put up with a person who is able but otherwise undesirable, or with a person of integrity who has no great ability. But what is one to do with persons who have neither integrity nor ability?" The dilemma of a democratic leader, perhaps!

Nehru the writer and the humanist is no less fascinating a subject for a writer or student or history. Studying Nehru is a means of rediscovering India in all its complexity and richness. "India," wrote Nehru "has always seemed to me to have broadly more the feminine qualities than the masculine." The feminine qualities—gentle and peaceful—predominate according to the mystic-visionary. But the architect of the world's largest democracy later extols women for a different reason. "Probably the biggest revolution that is taking place in India is through women's education which directly affects the hour." History, nature and literature fascinated him. History is not a magic show, he wrote, but there is plenty of magic in it for those who have eyes to see. He adds that we owe a duty to the past and the future, working on the present. He always asserted that no one ever died of hard work if it is allied to a good cause. The Ganga, he wrote in his Will and Testament, "has been to me a symbol and a memory of the past of India, running into the present and flowing on to the great ocean of future." Nehru wrote beautiful articles on statesmen, seers and saints, the greatest of whom, was for him Mahatma Gandhi. Sri Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, Aurobindo and Tagore were among those he greatly admired. He wrote short and humorous pieces too on such diverse subjects as clouds, monsoon, flying, vanities of celebrities and brooms! Poets must look and act as poets, he once wrote. Common sense is often common nonsense, he quipped. Newspapers do not often help one to think, he observed.

Sarvepalli Gopal's trilogy is a superb work that helps us in understanding modern India through the life of Jawaharlal Nehru. So is Shashi Tharoor's biography. Both Gopal and Tharoor admirably sum up the achievements of Nehru and the manner in which he laid a solid foundation for the world's largest democracy. The last paragraph in Shashi Tharoor's book deserves to be quoted: "On the desk, Jawaharlal Nehru kept two totems—a gold statuette of Mahatma Gandhi and a bronze cast of the hand of Abraham Lincoln, which he would occasionally touch for comfort. The two objects reflected the range of his sources of inspiration; he often spoke of his wish to confront problems with the heart of the Mahatma and the



hand of Lincoln. Nehru's time may indeed have passed; but it says something about the narrowing of the country's intellectual heritage that both objects ended up in a museum-and his heirs just kept the desk."

Let me end this small tribute to the great man by quoting his own words about India:

"Who lives if India dies?

Who dies if India lives?"

(The 116th Jayanthi of Jawaharlal Nehru was celebrated on November 14)

## INDIAN ECONOMIC REFORMS

- Prof. B. Sarveswara Rao

(A summary of the inaugural address delivered at the National Seminar on Indian Economic Reforms, Department of Economics, Andhra University November, 12-13, 1999)

The concept of economic reforms is now used as a very broad concept as a drive to economic liberalization and globalisation of the economy — free markets and trade, privatization of public sector undertakings, opening of the economy and its various sectors to the forces of international trade and investment, etc. The inspiration came from the World Bank and its interpretation of the economies of the some of the fast growing East-Asian and South-Asian countries. The so called Washington consensus as you are all aware emphasized unregulated markets and reduced the role of Government in economic activity based on U.S. thinking, and undoubtedly the intention was to advance the role of markets at the expense of other social institutions (liberalisation of international trade, direct investment flows, privatization of public enterprises, reduction of public expenditure, and moving away from subsidies, fiscal discipline in Government's spending, deregulation of markets, securing private property rights, etc.) Those who are likely to take advantage of these processes will undoubtedly be multi-national corporations and financial institutions and large-scale business organisations, capable of adopting new technologies including information technology for raising productivity and promoting organizational efficiency. The problems of transition such as adverse effects on small enterprises, unskilled jobs, displacement of workers, and the problems of health and education are often treated as transitional and secondary problems. The whole idea of social safety-nets was not there in the beginning.

It is interesting to note that our former Prime Minister Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao in his J.R.D. Tata Memorial Lecture, pointing out the genesis and rationale of economic reforms, observed that they were not designed to help only the business classes through retreat from the controlled or closed economy

but they were regarded as a new means of achieving national economic goals and social transformation, promoting growth with human face. He further stated that the reckless spread of consumerism, excessive investments in luxury goods production, adverse effects on environment, enhancement of dependence on various kinds constituted a distortion of the policy of reforms. I wonder if the actual processes of economic reforms and the thinking of the Governments and business corporations actually went along these lines. On the contrary, with little knowledge, I can say that there has been a lot of

I suppose most of us will agree that the opening of the economy and the society to international growth stimulating forces and development of capabilities for quickly adopting and using newly emerging technologies and knowledge to further the traditional industrialisation and orientation processes as engines of growth, and as a powerful instrument of economic growth and social change, are highly desirable. As our President Dr. Abdul Kalam has been emphasizing the need for promotion and development of indigenous technologies observed that "after all, all technologies are primarily manifestations of human experience and knowledge and thus are capable of further development under enabling environments" (India 2000 — Vision for the next Millennium).

Historical experience of the fast developing countries be often misleading because of the high variation in different factors like political, cultural and economic contributing to fast economic growth. Different hypotheses are put forward interpreting the experiences of countries like Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, etc., varying from foreign investment flows to cultural factors like Confucianism. No one of them could stand hard empirical analysis as David Lim of City University pointed out in his article on "Explaining the Growth Performances of Asian Developing Economies" *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, July, 1994.

While we are essentially concerned with the rate of economic growth and push it up as far as possible in the coming three to four decades, we must not overlook the fact that economic growth is only one dimension of the human progress and for a country like India where millions of people are subjected to various kinds of deprivations particularly in education and health and where regional and ethnic differences in the levels of human development are enormous, it is imperative for a positive active role for the State, and free market economy with some community support and ethical involvement in business houses, would hardly go anywhere in minimizing the deprivations for the concerned. We must also remember that the tasks of bringing about significant change in the quality of life and transformation of economic and social structure



...a fairly long time and unless the Governments both at the national and the States actively pursue a policy of mobilising both public and private and international aid and resources for such tasks, the problems will grow more and more intractable.

The lessons which we have to learn are not only from the scientists but also from the practical strategic approaches of the fast growing new economies in South and East Asia. These refer to the need for providing education with vocational and technical orientation without overlooking the urgency of universalisation of primary education, state support in the fields of education and health, and of a close understanding between the growing business and governments, the direct and indirect support to the business with a potential to capture international markets and all designed social safety nets for protecting those engaged in small business enterprises, artisans and others incapable of taking advantage of modern technological and managerial

Has globalization started declining? Does it require course correction? In light of the ongoing debate the insightful lecture by Prof. Sarveswara Rao is being reprinted)

## THE MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT-IV

- Prof. M.N. Sastri

### FISHERIES

Since the dawn of life on the planet, oceans have formed the ecological keel of the biosphere. Oceans regulate the primary greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, which enters the layers of the ocean where the phytoplankton and other marine plants use it in photosynthesis and release a third of global oxygen supply. Marine photosynthesis also forms the foundation of the ocean systems that yield millions of tonnes of seafood each year, accounting for 16 per cent of animal protein consumption.

For a long time, the marine living resources were considered invulnerable. According to the 19<sup>th</sup> century naturalist, Lamarck, "Animals living... in the seawaters... are protected from destruction of their species by man. Their multiplication is so rapid and their means of evading pursuit or traps are so great, that there is no likelihood of his being able to destroy the entire species of these animals." The adaptation of technology in fish hunting has however completely changed the picture. Radars enable fishing vessels to navigate even in fog. Sonar devices enable the detection of fish breeding grounds even in deep ocean waters. Satellite systems can track the movements of fish populations. Fishing vessels deploy mile-lengths of merged long lines with thousands of

baited hooks, bag-shaped trawl nets and miles long drift nets. Even explosives are used. As a result, fish are pulled from the seas faster than they can be replenished – a process analogous to mining.

The proportion of global stocks of fish classified by the FAO as overexploited – depleted recovering grew from 10% of the total from 1970s to an alarming 25% by the early 1990s. It has leveled off since then. Fishing grounds that are "fully exploited" (i.e. producing catches that are already at or very close to their maximum sustainable production limit) have risen to about 50% of the total from mid 40s to ten years ago, with much of this teetering on the edge of over-exploitation. In many sea areas the weight of fish available to be harvested is calculated to be less than over one-tenth or even one-hundredth of what it was before the introduction of technology-based fishing. The number of large fish in the ocean is estimated to have fallen by 90% since the 1950s.

The demand is growing because fish is a wonderful source of protein, not only for the growing populations of poor countries but also for the rich world's health conscious consumers. The total world production of fish (both marine and inland) increased steadily from 19.3 million tonnes in 1950 to 100 million tonnes in 1989 and 134 million tonnes in 2002. On current projections, it will rise to 179 million tonnes by 2015. According to theory, the maximum sustainable yield that can be cropped from a fishery comes when the biomass (amount of living matter) of a target species is about 50% of its original level. Reports indicate that most fisheries are well below this level. Even international agreements setting standards for responsible fishing have failed to turn the tide with most governments ignoring them.

In general, coastal waters are highly productive zones with more marine life than the open oceans or the deep sea. The phytoplankton, which account for bulk of marine productivity, concentrate near the coastal regions where the nutrients come to the surface. The nutrient-rich brackish waters of the river estuaries, mangrove swamps and salt marshes lie in the zones where seas touch land. About 90 percent of the marine fish catch comes from these coastal nutrient-rich zones, which are dominated by salt tolerant trees or shrubs known as mangrove forests. These mangrove forests not only provide habitat for more than 2,000 fish species but are sources of timber, pulpwood and food as well. These ecologically important coastal zones have now become vulnerable to human activities. In the last two decades it is estimated that people have removed more than a third of the world's mangrove forests. Impoundment of river waters through construction of dams across the rivers has reduced the input of nutrients into the estuaries. In some situations agricultural and other activities have released huge quantities of nutrients into the



coastal waters creating "dead zones". Extensive areas of these ecologically rich coastal zones are being reclaimed for aquaculture and other activities.

With the decline of preferred fish catches, people have turned to aquaculture. This activity has hit the wild fish population because the land required for aquaculture is reclaimed through clearing extensive areas of coastal mangrove forests, the habitat of wild fish species. Since only expensive types of shrimp and fish are produced in these reclaimed areas for export, the local poor people, for whom fish is the main protein source, have to struggle with poor quality marine food.

Coral reefs, described as *the rain forests of the ocean*, are important ecosystems with a high biodiversity that serves as a storage bank for genetic sources. Living coral reefs are the fountain of marine life and thus a crucial support for human life as source of food and medicines. They protect the coast from wave erosion. Home to 25% of all marine life, coral reefs are currently the most fragile and endangered ecosystems. Found in 100 countries, reefs of 93 countries have already been damaged. If the present rate of destruction continues, 70% of the world's coral reefs will be destroyed within the next few decades. The damage to coral reefs is occurring through global warming, water pollution, collection of corals, shells seashells and other articles of tourist interest, fishing using explosives and use as raw material for cement production.

## STOP THIS PROFLIGACY

- Sri T. Hanumantha Rao, M.A.  
Retd. Lecturer, Anakapalli

Addressing the Congress Chief Ministers' Conclave at Chandigarh in October last the Prime Minister. Dr. Manmohan Singh rightly observed that the cutting edge of governance is in the States and advised the State Governments to improve public finance at all levels and generate revenues and alter the expenditure profile. He struck a right note when he said that populism and populist gimmicks like free power to farmers that cannot be sustained will not fetch results and become an obstacle to self reliance.

Of all the areas where the question of good governance would impact the most, the fiscal system is the key area. It is a common knowledge that the finances of the Centre as well as the States are under strain. This is happening because expenditures are running at a faster pace than revenues as many of the departments, are primarily expenditure departments. It has been aptly said, "India has a Rolls Royce administration in a bullock-cart Country". Our government offices are among the most overstaffed in the world with very low productivity and poor discipline. Rajaji once said, "that

what ten officers did in former days was now done by 100 persons".

Governance at the Centre has deteriorated over the decades owing to the over-extended tendency for centralization of functions and the weakening of stamina for Co-ordination. Grandiose schemes which flounder for the lack of efficient implementation are increasingly becoming common. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) introduced by the Centre bears an eloquent testimony to it. Of late the political vicissitudes and compulsions of "rainbow coalition" Governments at the Centre resulting in jumbo cabinets and proliferation of departments seem to be aggravating the malady of mis-governance. More than anything else, the Centre's mounting fiscal deficit is, to a large extent, derived from fiscal profligacy of the States and it has become a Herculean task to contain it.

At the level of the States, the story is more agonising. Given the fiscal structure of federalism, the States have a disproportionately larger range of developmental responsibilities in relation to their authority to collect tax revenue. The States have been living in a chronic state of financial stringency during the last four decades as they were bogged down by populist policies which have been eating into the vitals of their economies. Unfortunately, these policies have become a bid to build a vote bank and contrary to expectations, they are not making much of a dent on poverty. It should not be forgotten that there are limits beyond which sops cannot be handed to the citizens without damaging the overall growth. Besides, the frequent and astronomical increase in the emoluments of the MLAs and MPs is aggravating the gall still further and the people of our country cannot afford to pamper their representatives indiscriminately.

It is disheartening to note that the gross fiscal deficit of States was well below 3 percent of GDP in the earlier part of the 1990s but it shot up to 5 percent in 1999-2000. The revenue deficit which accounted for less than 30 percent of the gross fiscal deficit in the early 1990s reached 60 percent by the end of the decade. The most disturbing aspect is that the States condone capital expenditure to meet the growing revenue expenditure. The main reason for this malady is that the States are not able to control the growth in revenue expenditure and they are highly reluctant to raise additional revenues. The States borrow regularly and it looks as though it is their only avocation.

The whole problem boils down to the creation of a sense of fiscal responsibility among the states and they should be made to realize that neither the devolution of central revenues mediated by the Finance Commission nor Central loans could bail them out for ever. The Centre would do well to create a



...Loan Council as suggested by Dr. C. Rangarajan  
...announce the borrowing limits for each State at  
...of each year taking into account sustainability  
...ations.

...time that the States observed fiscal discipline and  
...more on revenue augmentation and emphasis  
...to be on non-tax revenues. As the tax rates in most  
...are already at a high level, better tax revenue will have  
...achieved only through better tax collection and this  
...toning of tax administration. Similarly, in the case  
...tax revenue, the price paid on the various services  
...by the Government can be enhanced if it makes sure  
...interrupted and adequate flow of services. Credibility  
...area needs to be built up.

...to be clearly understood that what the country needs,  
...consolidation, is a set of basic norms of propriety in  
...realm such as minimum agreed allocation of funds  
...ing with human deprivation, efficient and honest  
...on of taxes from the public and bringing down of public  
...interest burden. Centre and the State must sincerely  
...to balance their revenue and expenditure, for, a  
...country cannot ensure growth with equity.

## RA THERAPY : A NEW HORIZON IN THE TREATMENT OF THE MENTALLY CHALLENGED

- Dr. T.V. Sairam

Member (Technical) CESTAT - Delhi

9th April 2005. It was a day of notable events in the  
Andhra Pradesh.

...the Ugadi New Year day celebration for the millions  
...in and outside the country. It also witnessed the  
...a new form of 'therapy' to the 454 agitated and  
...ged minds of Libenshilfe, an organization at  
...patnam striving for the welfare of the mentally  
...ed. It was also the day, which started a scientific  
...to the celebrated Indian ragas, otherwise known for  
...ndary role in solving human miseries and misfortunes.

### Therapeutic Significance of Indian Ragas

...ragas are well-known for their positive impact on  
...bled minds. The three-day workshop, which was  
...t by psychologists, sociologists, musicians and the  
...ers for the special children was the follow-up of these  
...concepts on the need for revival of the ancient  
...s of nada and raga towards the welfare of one and all,  
...sed exclusively on the mental health of the mentally

The Day I was concentrated heavily on the basics of music therapy. The prayer consisted of a short song or free recitation by every participant, according to his religious or spiritual upbringing. The unity of religious sentiments was realized by everyone who participated in this prayer session. This was followed by an introduction to the concept and practices with the involvement of one's awareness. The participants were also exposed to the subtleties in sound and silence the make or mar our sensory experience. The jargons such as sound, noise, music and nada were explained with demonstrations. The sound emanation in nature, particularly in the Five Elements that constitute our body as well as the Universe (fire, water, earth, space and wind) were demonstrated with appropriate musical pieces drawn from both the West and the East, the folk, film as well as classical renderings of songs.

Analysing, appreciating and 'internalizing' music was explained with practical demonstrations. An attempt was also made to classify the ragas into two categories : the beta (which includes fresh air and alertness) and alpha (which relaxes and benumbs the tormented minds) with the raga expert and musicians with rich musical experience present during the seminar.

The Day II was devoted to analysis of a musical piece, irrespective of their origin-western or Indian, tribal or classical, religious or sensory. It was concluded that it is the selection of appropriate rhythms and resonance that determine the genre of music. Like blood is similar in all human beings, rhythms and resonance had otherwise no distinction and are universal. The ancient concept of sruti darshana and proposed innovation based on them (proto-raga therapy and rainbow raga therapy at Libenshilfe) were also thrown open for a brainstorming discussion by the experts from various fields assembled among the audience.

The Day III was devoted to selecting two appropriate ragas (Fars and kadanakuddohalam) and devising a musical structure with three tempos (trikala rendering) - starting with slow tempo for 2 mts silence, then medium tempo for 2 mts, to be again followed by 2 mt silence and finally the fast tempo for 1 mt to be followed by 2 mt silence. The behavioural reaction of the mentally challenged for these raga pieces was recorded by a team of experts among the participants.

It is noteworthy that the entire music was designed, devised and presented by the participants themselves!

### Findings and Conclusion

There was a consensus among the participants in the feedback session on the methodology adopted and efficacies of ragas, chosen.

All the participants unanimously agreed that the Indian



system of ragas promises to motivate and bring in greater productivity among the mentally retarded. Their behavioural problems can also be easily corrected by a careful selection of panel of experts, drawn from various disciplines, as done in the current study.

## THE AGE OF SYNDROMES

Internet addiction has been described as a disorder. Identifying it as Internet Addiction Disorder Syndrome, some psychologists consider it a disabling weakness resulting in anomie, loss of identity and irritation among the addicts. Clinics, it seems, were started in some advanced countries to cure it.

A new syndrome (disorder) has hit the Japanese. A report by Anthony Faiola in the Guardian Weekly of October 28 - November 3, 2005, says that a large number of Japanese women have been hit by a new disorder called Retired Husband Syndrome or RHS. According to the news report Sakura Terakawa, 63, described her four decades of married life as a gradual transition from wife to mother to servant. From love letters and wooing words under cherry blossoms the husband-wife relationship deteriorated to too many demands by the husband and nitpicking over the quality of her housework. The net result is that she decided to divorce him once she heard that her husband was retiring from service. In her words: "Having him around the house all the time was more than I could possibly bear". Her recent ailments such as ulcers, polyps in her throat, blurred speech and rashes around her eyes have been attributed by psychiatrists to RHS.

While elderly women are preferring therapy to fight the new disorder, men have formed associations to present their point of view and assert their independence. Kotake's group teaches men to cook and carry out household duties and efforts are under way to bridge the communication gap between men and women belonging to the senior citizen category. One fifth of Japanese are over 65, the highest percentage in the world, according to the report.

(Guardian Weekly October 28, Nov.5, 2005)

## SRI SWAMI RANGANATHANANDA-I

(Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 1908 - April 25<sup>th</sup> 2005)

- Sri Challa Sivasankaram

"Truly religious souls will identify themselves with the social and human revolution that is afoot and guide the aspirations of mankind for a better and fuller life" - Dr. S. Radhakrishna. East and West.

In Kerala the Charms of Nature were luxurious—her lakes,

her trackless forests, her deep rivers solemnly rolling towards the sea, her skies artistically marked with crawling clouds blue and white, her lakes ornamented with lotus red and white, fairwater lilies hills bedecked with green tea plantations, and flocks of elephants with tusks bright, elegantly strolling to drink and sip in the running stream. It was a beautiful bewitching panorama of Nature. Travancore-Cochin was integral part of the state of Kerala. India recognized her as the most progressive state. It was the first state of all sister states that had thrown open the doors of Hindu temples to the outsiders. It was the first State that attracted the attention of the foreigners to settle and do trade. It was the Brahmin dominated state flourishing as the cradle of Hinduism imbued fairly with Buddhist tenets. Buddhism was not rejected by India. It was assimilated in Brahmanism which has been widely known as Hinduism. Where intellectual aristocracy flourished and dominated the course of the life of man, there enlightenment dawns and finds a congenial climate to illumine the lives of men.

A great thinker once said that the history of the world is the history of the greatest men. This aptly applies to India. India's history abounds in saints, saintly monarchs and princes that renounced kingdoms and retreated to the forests for higher gains belonging to the unseen world which is in the words of Socrates the other-world where liberated souls dwell. It is India's fortune that thinkers like Sri Krishna, Bhagawan Buddha and Sankaracharya had incarnated to lead mankind on the illumined road. There had been a peculiar continuum in the line of greatest men not unoften adventing on earth. Coming on the heels of Sankara there were born two greatest men namely Rāmānuja and Mādhvacharya. Sankara, Ramanuja and Madhva were propounders of three different schools of religion. The central theme of the three was the same ultimate liberation.

Kerala that produced Sri Sankara did produce his namesake Sankaran. It was in the year 1908 December 15<sup>th</sup> that Sankaran was born in the village called Trikkur after about 50 years of Swami Vivekananda's physical withdrawal from the phenomenal world. Margasirsha month of sarnvat calendar roughly corresponds to December of Gregorian calendar. Lord Sri Krishna identified the month with himself. Sankaran was brought up in a highly deified religious atmosphere. Kuttu houses on the whole were religious and children were reared meticulously so that no blasphemous winds of Bohemian leanings could dare mar the children's inborn purity and religious piety. When Sankaran attained five years and five months of age he was initiated into letters beginning with the mystic syllable *Aum*. He had his elementary education in his native place. For the prosecution of higher education he was admitted in a high school at Ollur a near-by town.



Sankaran was looking wistful and inquisitive overcome by the uncommon urge to transform India. He was overwhelmed by the desire to read the works of Swami Vivekananda the great soul inspire millions and veer round to the path scarcely detached as Sankaran was he was in no way into a virtual seeker after truth. He was a half years old when he joined Ramakrishna at its Mysore Branch. Mysore had proud and the portals of his heart and that of his imposing built palace. Thus Mysore became a home one for the Monks of the Ramakrishna order.

and smart Sankaran with distinct features of a equipped with sharp intellect and skill, learnt in consonance with and conformity to the orders of the elders of the order. As it was a self- he moved like fish in the water, amidst the s of the mission. The atmosphere was amicable, were affectionate; Sankaran became a favorite of

st nine years of monastic life in the Mysore Branch or he worked for six years as cook, dish-washer, er and later as warden of the house for students. nine years stipulated service he spent 3 years at Branch of the Order moving amidst youth and

he was initiated solemnly at the age of twenty one along wish of becoming a Sannyasin by Swami one of the outstanding disciples of Sri Ramakrishna second president of the Mission, under the monastic chaitanya he went through many years of lasting evolution. The bud blossomed into Ranganatha Many unfamiliar facets of the Supreme Truth were ng ventilated from his mouth. In him Vedanta had a component and an articulate interpreter. There is music me awe in the letters with which the name was ed. He was not a virulent crusader bent on spreading se dogma but a sweet advocate and a devout monk continued to share the vedantic store at his disposal people of East and West. His discourses sounded as were delivered by the Discoverers of the Truths existing the memorial.

Ranganathananda was thirty one years old when he called upon to assume the office of Secretary and of the mission's Branch at Rangoon. It was the 2nd World War broke out. The three years he worked there were really historic and the

Impressions the term made on his mind's canvas were indelible and they induced him to draw a critical piece of amusing differences in the mental constitution of the Indian and Burmese people as a nation and as individuals.

In Rangoon the Ramakrishna Mission had been conducting since 1920 a Ramakrishna Sevashram which was a 162 bed charitable hospital situated on a ten acre plot. The hospital was completely destroyed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. To rebuild it the mission sought to receive help from the Burmese Government and the public. The help from the public and the government was substantial and merits a chronicle of telling human geniality and solidarity. Infact the mission belongs to the Indian community. But the donors of the charitable hospital were open for all to seek repair of their impaired health. The hospital entered the records as peoples' institution. The mission's institutions gained a warm corner in the warmth filled hearts of thousands of Burmese; for example a pious Burmese lady donated considerable amount which was enough to build a neat, spacious building for the auxiliary nurses' staff quarters. The Swami enthused by the gesture writes; "The Burmese are a charitable and generous people. When they give, whether poor or rich, they give with reverence and devotion. Our monks who go to collect donations in Burma have been struck with the difference between the Burmese and the Indians' moods and ways of charity. Excepting a small minority of refined people, Indian donors adopt a patronising attitude betraying a sense of half heartedness, and a total lack of appreciation of the cause for which they give. This is inconceivable in the Burmese way of charity; they receive visitors with reverence, pay the promised amount with a touch of generosity. Their charity fully breathes the spirit of true charity as expressed in Taittiriya Upanishad (1-11-3) Sraddhaya deyam, asraddhaya adeyam, Sriya deyam, hriya deyam, bhiya deyam, Samvidā deyam (give with faith in one self, don't give without faith: give with generosity, give in fear, give with knowledge and appreciation).

(to be continued)

## PROTECTION OF BLACK AND WHITE PAINTINGS

- Prof. N. Krishna Murthy  
Retd. Professor of Chemistry (AU)

During 1970 the head of the Department of Chemistry of Andhra University placed a request to renovate and repair about 15 black and white German prints of scientists that were bought in the initial stages of the starting of Chemistry Department around 1930. With the passage of time the paper and the print became brown and the figure was not distinctly seen and after 40 years the paper lost its strength. Myself



with the help of my research students applied photochemical effect in sunlight using a media of very dilute solution of sulphite, or bleaching powder or preferably rectified spirit or methyl alcohol. Later the paper was washed with plenty of distilled water and dried in the sun. Excellent result was achieved in restoring the paper, whiteness and the black or sepia tone of the print but the strength of the paper could not be protected by all methods of trials. We dipped the paper in gum aceacia solution or transparent water soluble adhesives but the formation of adhesive layer over the print slightly effects its aesthetic appearance. So the rear side of the paper was strengthened with adhesives then attached to a water proof card board used as a mount coated with an enamel colour and then properly framed with glass. The prints are good looking even today for they are well protected.

Another scientific aspects of study is the protection of photo bromide prints that is ordinary photo prints. The black and white photo prints or colour photo prints are most liable to fade out by the sunlight which are effected photo-chemically. The black prints slowly turn brown and then to colourless and the coloured prints fade down faster than black, each colour being lightened photo-chemically with sunlight or artificial light.

The most dangerous deterioration of these prints is due to fungus formation especially with moisture or water vapour mostly in the rainy season. The fungus growth is much catalysed in the presence of silver salts and spoiled very fast so anti fungus solutions or powder is dusted on the surface of the bromide paper the surface is well protected even in the presence of moisture. The photo chemical effect of sunlight or artificial light can much be prevented by glassing the photos giving sufficient aeration to breath.

Experiments were carried out separately to study the effect of acids or alkalis over the paintings and are found to be injurious to the surface of the painting, although they protect the fungus formation through moisture over photobromide paper or a water colour paintings or oil colour paintings. It is strongly felt putting a glass to any painting extends its life very much for example a painting without glass if it survives ten years with glass an oil painting survives more than 1 to 3 hundred years. So even large life size paintings are also advised to be put in glass for it saves the painting surface mainly from dust, moisture acidous vapours, gases and atmospheric pollutants. It will be saved to a large extent from the photochemical effect because large part of light will be reflected on the surface of the glass. This aspect of work is done by some of my M.Phil students which were submitted as dissertations.

The most notable fact of stabilizing the colour is to protect it from the photochemical effect of light. Light may be in the form of sunlight, artificial, Ultraviolet or Infrared form. It is interesting to mention that myself and my guide late Prof. G. Gopal Rao once got opened by the Governor of Andhra Pradesh an item "Two in One" in a science exhibition of Andhra University. It consisted of a watercolour painting of Siva on paper which is visible in artificial light which transforms to Paarvati when ultra violet light is projected. The principle involved, is to paint Paarvathi over Siva with colorless chemicals which give colour in ultraviolet light like Zinc chloride (green), Mercuric Chloride (red), Tinopal (blue) etc in gum as medium. The piece attracted the attention of a large public which stands as an example of light effect of ultraviolet light on photography especially on colour systems.

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